ONE MAN'S TREASURE

We review local thrift stores

page 6

The Shakerite

WRITING ON THE WALLS

Some say it's art, others say it's crime

page 4

September 26, 2003 · Volume 74 · Issue 1 · Shaker Heights High School · 15911 Aldersyde Drive · Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

# Parents vow to keep out of coaches' way

## • Letter from athletic directors addresses issues with parent/coach relations

By Meagan Steiner
SPORTS EDITOR

If Shaker athletic directors have their way, there will be no more complaining about practice time, confronting coaches after games, gossiping about other student athletes or exaggerating their athletic ability, at least not by your parents.

A letter sent to parents of fall athletes in early August laid out guidelines for communicating with student athletes and coaches suggested by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Parents were required to sign a form agreeing to abide by the rules before their children were allowed to participate in fall sports.

Athletic director Susan Brown said about 90 percent of parents signed the form by the Aug. 14 deadline.

"We struggle with having parents try to coach a child and I think that's very difficult for a student athlete," Brown said. "I would never go into a parents' professional setting, let's say they're a lawyer, and try to tell them what to do… that's not respectful."

Parents were discouraged from living vicariously through their children, overreacting to their child's complaints, acting as a coach or discussing other students, playing time, team strategy or rulings with the coach.

Athletic director David Sedmak said all these issues have been problems at some point, though only among a minority of parents.

"The one that always loses out is the kid when parents get too involved. The kid's not learning responsibility. The kid's not learning disappointment. If a kid is being mistreated a parent should by all means get involved, but not playing as much as they want is not being mistreated," he said.

Both Sedmak and Brown said problems arise when the parents try to coach.

In order to avoid this, the letter told parents, "If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he will likely become disenchanted."

SEE LETTER, PAGE 8

> "The one who loses out is the kid when parents get too involved. The kid's not learning responsibility."
>
> David Sedmak
> Athletic Director

Meghana Karnik• THE SHAKERITE

ASSISTANT WOMEN'S SOCCER coach Rick Hubbard watches his team play Mentor Sept. 10. Athletic directors sent a letter to parents of fall athletes asking them to refrain from interfering with coaches' duties.

# Rain chases graduation away

GRADUATE CAMILLA CULLIS speaks to a soggy crowd at the 2003 commencement ceremony June 14.

After years of tradition, commencement moves to theater district location

Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

SCHOOL OFFICALS GAVE students such as Darriell Hayes and Brittany Haywood ponchos for the ceremony. Despite the move, many complained that the rain ruined their caps, gowns and clothing. Because of the rain-soaked 2003 commencement, the 2004 event has been moved to the Palace Theatre.

*from staff reports*

Graduation 2003 was a muddle of rain, dirt and red dye for Cliff Robinson and his family. After the torrential storm, Robinson regretted his decision to attend commencement.

"It was cold, wet and my grandparents took pictures of the wrong guy," Robinson said. "You couldn't see because of the rain and the dye running down our faces."

These weren't the memories school administrators, graduates and their families had hoped for, so a drastic change has been made: the class of 2004 will graduate at the Palace Theatre. Although details of the June 10 ceremony are yet to be determined, there is certainty that the new venue will be weatherproof and less costly.

"We haven't found out all the nuts and bolts of this venture yet, and we are going over a wide range of factors, such as the sound system and staff availability," Griffith said. "We were quite fortunate that the facility was open to us, and truly want to make sure a formal, nice climate is provided."

Graduation has been held indoors before at places such as the Cleveland Convention Center.

SEE GRADUATION, PAGE 2

# Teachers surf the net to take attendance

By Emily Grannis
NEWS EDITOR

A steady flow of frustrated teachers poured into the computer lab on first day of school in an attempt to crack the code of Shaker's new online attendance program.

Since then, teachers have adapted to the new system. The Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association is the online database Shaker now uses for attendance records. According to Assistant Principal Ann Spurrier, teachers access their class lists from the Social Work Access Network and Data for Student Learning systems.

Gone for good are the scan sheets on which teachers bubbled in absences or tardies with a No. 2 pencil. Now, when attendance lists come up on the screen, teachers click in one of two small circles to mark a student absent or tardy.

"Everything's point and click. It's really, really easy," Spurrier said.

She added that it took her "about two minutes" to enter the entire day's attendance for study hall.

English teachers Amber McCloud mentioned an access problem.

"The system becomes bogged down at the end of the day," McCloud said.

Spurrier acknowledged that computers are also an issue but said that the district has ordered new computers. Also, LNOCA sometimes shut down access in due to problems or routine service.

Spurrier

Spanish teacher José Perez thinks that once it gets going, the new system could work well.

"I'm pleased when it works and rather upset when it doesn't," he said, laughing.

SEE ATTENDANCE, PAGE 2

# Slammin' Shaker poets descend on the Kamikaze

By December Kinney
ARTS EDITOR

The chorus of protests that arise when high school English teachers announce impending poetry units are nowhere to be heard in this unconventional classroom.

Here, at the Kamikaze Coffee House's Open Mic Session, a sense of anticipation is palpable as an eager audience awaits readings by poets who are ready for a chance to express their feelings. Among the crowd and presenters are teenagers and adults; suburbanites and urban dwellers; novices and published poets. Every Sunday night at 8 p.m., this eclectic group comes together to enjoy poetry performed in a hip-hop friendly atmosphere.

At any given session, it is highly likely that one or more Shaker students will be in the audience.

Senior Lindsey Weed once attended an open mic session.

"I thought it was a lot of fun 'cause the first time you go they make you feel so welcome. They just make you feel comfortable,"

SEE KAMIKAZE, PAGE 7

**June 9, 1987**

At a math department party, health teacher **Hubert McIntyre** dropped to one knee and proposed to math teacher **Ovella Roulette**. "She was left speechless at first," McIntyre said. "Everyone else was startled and surprised."

Math teacher **Edward Hojnowski** remembers the day. "He has this nice way about him," Hojnowski said. "Often if he gets up to speak, you feel interested and you expect to be somewhat entertained. It's always meaningful." McIntyre and Roulette married Aug. 7, 1987. The Shakerite ran a story on the McIntyre proposal in its Sept. 1,1987 edition. **The McIntyres** celebrated their sixteenth anniversary last month.

Compiled by Emily Grannis and Lauren Weiss

## the News Desk

### Waterbottles benefit 2005

The junior class water bottle fund-raising campaign caused confusion when students misunderstood who would benefit from the sale. Fliers didn't mention that profits went solely to the class of 2005 until the juniors were notified of the ambiguity. "We were told say 'class of 2005' to limit the confusion," class representative Cassie Gladden said. "A couple seniors were mad and didn't buy them, but otherwise we are selling a lot."

- David Morgenstern

### Regatta changed

The Regatta is now Autumn Fest, a celebration integrating Homecoming weekend and other events on Oct. 10 - 12. The high school, Shaker Nature Center, Shaker Historical Museum, city libraries, and Shaker Heights Art Council will participate, although Thornton is the main venue. The event will include a hike around Horseshoe Lake and a scavenger hunt; however, there will not be a boat race. "The city just wanted to make changes," said Sandy Blue, special events coordinator for Shaker.

- Aviva Ariel

### Laptops everyone

Students at Beachwood Middle School are receiving laptops for school and home use, costing the district $399,280. This will allow teachers to increase their use of technology, according to Principal Edward Bernetich.

Shaker Heights Curriculum Director Dr. James Paces said Shaker is considering a similar plan, but that there is not enough evidence of its effectiveness. "We want to invest in technology that has the biggest bang for the buck," he said.

- Lauren Weiss

# After Freshman Friday, code of silence prevails

BY EMILY GRANNIS
NEWS EDITOR

In the latest installment of Freshman Friday, six white senior males paddled seven white ninth-grade boys in an after-school, off-campus initiation rite Sept. 5.

According to one senior male participant, who asked to remain anonymous, the seniors began the initiation by talking to the freshmen about the "ways of the high school and the way to gain friends."

Next, they began what he termed the "true initiation": paddling. He explained that seniors paddled the freshmen to make it clear to them that they were still the "little guys" and needed to respect the upperclassmen.

"It's not meant to kill them or hurt them too severely," the senior said. "It's been done much, much worse in the past . . . before, it was hard-core."

He added that the freshmen laughed and joked around during the paddling.

"It's supposed to be fun — a good time," he said. "Basically, what it is, is it's kinda a tradition, I guess."

The practice dictates that seniors who were themselves paddled as freshmen pick a "handful" of freshmen boys to participate in the ritual.

The boys were invited to go with the seniors but given the option to leave if they were uncomfortable.

After the paddling, the freshmen were invited to go out with the seniors. Once they went out, the seniors tried to show the freshmen that they were friends.

"They know us if they need any help or want to talk . . . they have a friendly face in the halls," the senior explained.

The senior male admitted that they asked the freshmen to keep what happened quiet.

"We say, 'We gave you the option to leave,' but they wanted to stay, so we said, 'We do ask you to keep this quiet,' because technically, this is not really allowed."

The senior added that no drinking or drugs were involved.

Parent Teacher Organization co-president Holly Wang said that hazing was brought up in a summer meeting but no immediate solutions were found. Wang added that out of the 15 people at the meeting, the fact that hazing goes on at Shaker was news to several.

"It was a concerning topic to everybody . . . but it's a question of how you get your hands around it," she said. "It's hard to know where to start."

PTO members considered sending a letter home to educate parents but have not yet done so. Wang added that one of the major problems is that things could get out of control.

"This year it might be 'harmless,' but there are no guarantees [for coming years]," she said.

Wang said that the PTO is trying to work with the school to find a solution for this "difficult problem."

"It's like a moving target . . . a secret society," she said. "Why do we want to wait for someone to get hurt?"

### Hazing by the numbers

- 7 freshmen hazed . . .
- 5 freshmen interviewed . . .
- 4 freshmen answered "safe" questions . . .
  - 4 play sports . . .
  - 4 knew upperclassmen . . .
  - 4 admitted knowing about Freshman Friday . . .
- 0 "talked."

# Catholic school denies right to display religion

Regina High School's treatment of senior Amal Jamal evoked strong reactions from members of the Shaker community. The senior was told by the principal that she couldn't wear her hijab, the traditional Muslim headdress on campus, and subsequently left the school.

Shaker Muslim sophomore Makeda Farley felt that this type of discrimination should have been anticipated by Jamal's parents.

"Well, I think it's sad that people can be so unopen and not accepting of her and her religion," she said. "But I also think that her parents made the choice to go to a private, Catholic school . . . and they knew they'd have to deal with discrimination."

"We're a Catholic school... it's partly dress code and partly to identify us as a Catholic School," said Sister Maureen Burke, Regina principal.

The Shakerite asked a few other area high schools to comment on their schools' dress codes and policies on religious headwear.

- Betty Elee

**Shaker:** "There's a district dress code and it speaks specifically against wearing unsafe or disruptive clothing... We're mindful of First amendment rights and yet respectful of diversity."

- Principal Michael Griffith

**Laurel:** "Students are allowed to wear religious headwear and we have had students wear them in the past."

- Julie Donahue, former director of communications

**University School:** "We haven't had to address it because we haven't had any students [wearing religious headgear]."

- *Doug Lagarde, head of the Upper School*

Photo illustration by Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

# Attendance goes hi-tech

FROM ATTENDANCE PAGE 1

"But I truly believe if it's given time to get off the ground it has the potential for success."

To keep the system secure, teachers need a user name and password to access their information. This prevents students from getting in, but it also keeps substitutes from accessing the information.

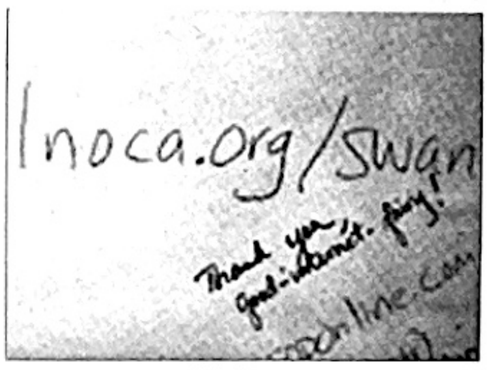
Substitutes mark absences and tardies by hand, filling in the student's name and status on a sheet.

Substitute Alan Birnbaum doesn't mind filling out the sheets.

"I'm glad I don't have to [go on the computer]," he said.

The attendance secretaries must then enter the absences and tardies by hand.

Attendance secretary Annette Sankey said that the old scan sheet system, though it was less involved than this one, had its own problems. The scanner could pick up dust, or the sheets could be lost or damaged to the point that they wouldn't go through the machine anymore, causing errors in attendance records.




Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

**A SIGN BEHIND a computer in the English office helps teachers find their attendance lists. Beneath the instructions, a teacher responded "Thank you good-internet fairy!"**

"There's always going to be a problem no matter what," Sankey said. She added that she likes this system better "but there are still some glitches that have to be worked out . . . There's a lot more that has to be put in place."

Secretaries must also enter in the information when teachers don't type in their attendance records before 4 p.m. Teachers must fill out the same yellow attendance substitutes use if they are late in entering the information.

Spurrier is confident that faculty will become proficient in the system.

"It's been a challenge for all of us learning it," she said. "It's a whole new way of doing business, and we're learning it slowly but surely."

# 2004 graduation to be at Palace Theatre

FROM GRADUATION PAGE 1

The Palace Theatre, located in downtown Cleveland, is about a 15-minute drive from the high school. It accommodates about 2800 people in permanent seats. Peggy Caldwell, director of communications, said it might be possible to bring in additional portable seats.

"We seated about 3000 people in the stadium," Caldwell said. "The ticket situation has not been worked out yet; we will know within the next month or so how tickets will be handled."

Graduation has been held outside on Rupp Field for at least 20 years and is a tradition for senior Erika Leibovitch.

"[Graduation has] been outside every year," she said. "The best part is the lawn reception and the orchestra's playing. I'm disappointed."

For Dave Chupek ('03), last year's event was disappointing.

"I feel like I got gypped out of graduation and everything got rushed," Chupek said.

Because the Palace Theatre is an indoor venue with a backup generator, the move reduces the need for a contingency plan. Gail Gregg, mother of 2003 graduate Ally Gregg-Zellars, felt Shaker's backup plan, in which some people sit in the gym and others in a room with TV monitors, should have been implemented for the 2003 event.

"The superintendent decided to forgo his speech, all the music was canceled, and though all the [traditional] students did speak, they were rushed," Gregg said. "They definitely made the wrong decision carrying on outside. My daughter was very disappointed."

The district has replaced caps, tassels and diplomas that were ruined during the downpour. Also, a December reception for the class of 2003 has planned.

"It will serve as an opportunity for the graduates and their families to congregate one more time," Caldwell said.

Betty Elee, Emily Grannis and Lauren Weiss contributed to this report.

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association
SHTA
Professionals
Educating

SLAMMIN'! TEAM POETRY SLAM
SHAKER LIBRARY VERSUS CH-UH LIBRARY
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23
Nature Center 2600 South Park
Teams of 3 - 5 members must attend a workshop in the Shaker Library Teen Center.
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. October 8
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. October 15
Info: Shaker Library, 991-2030
Free tickets available at Shaker Library October 1.

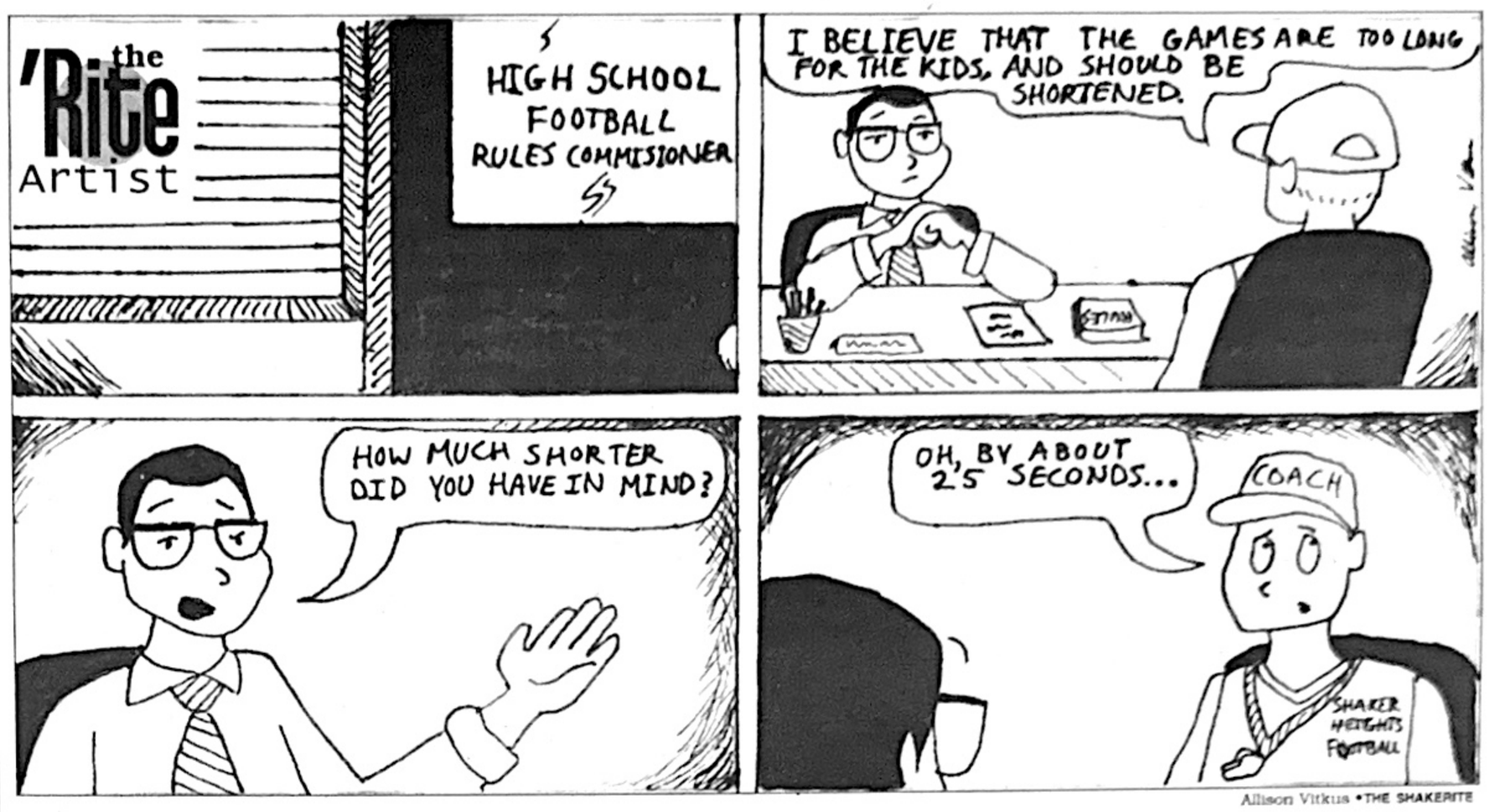
# What happens when honor and culture clash

In a small town called Yaylim, on the outskirts of southern Turkey, an old, bloody tradition lives on. The locals call it honor killing; we flatly call it murder. This summer The New York Times reported on the ancient tradition still practiced in the tiny, rural towns of southern Turkey. A 35-year-old woman and 55-year-old man were stoned in an open field. The older man had allegedly raped and impregnated the woman. They were both killed, according to family and friends of the victims, to preserve the honor of the two families. The woman spent nearly a month in a hospital in a vegetative state with a crushed skull and severe brain damage. Many of the Yaylim villagers were relieved when she finally died; had she lived, the alleged rapist's family would have been obliged to take a bloody revenge on her family. Someone would have to die to "even the score." The woman's own sister shouted at the Times reporter, "Honor is not a trivial thing! What else were we supposed to do?" It's not hard to deem honor killings antiquated, extreme and even insane. From my perspective and yours, this kind of behavior is, to make a huge understatement, "a bit out there." Honor is an important virtue, but isn't this taking it a bit too far?

KYAN SAFAVI
OPINION EDITOR

Although there is no way in our culture to condone the killings, it is a fact that we cannot possibly understand where the Yaylim Turks are coming from on this issue. They practice family honor with a zealous intensity. Every culture emphasizes and pursues its own particular virtues. We value freedom, equality and liberty with perhaps the same passion that the villagers value honor. A Yaylim villager might think, for example, that it's crazy that women in America are required by law to have the same rights and privileges as men. They choose honor above rights and equality. Who are we to judge a people who live so differently than we?

Herein lies the difficult question: What human actions are universally immoral, inhuman and unjust? Where do we draw the line? It is important to respect cultural practices and exercise tolerance with a sensitivity to the uniqueness of other ethnic groups. Yet when women are being raped and subsequently stoned to death, cultural sensitivity can go too far by allowing such actions to continue. Still, who is to determine what is universally wrong, and when do we start viewing actions through the eye of the global community? There is no clear-cut solution to this complex problem, but we can try to better understand each other, to learn more about cultures so different from ours. This is the first step toward reaching a multicultural, global solution. The Turks are not wrong for wanting to preserve honor, to keep alive a virtue that defines who they are. We must, however, continue to protect all people against inhumanity while still being conscientious of our cultural differences. Let's see where people are coming from, how they live their lives and what they value before we judge them. If we did this, we might very well find friends rather than foes from the halls of the high school to the Middle East and Asia.


'Rite the Artist
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RULES COMMISIONER
I BELIEVE THAT THE GAMES ARE TOO LONG FOR THE KIDS, AND SHOULD BE SHORTENED.
HOW MUCH SHORTER DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
OH, BY ABOUT 2'5 SECONDS...
COACH
SHAKER HEIGHTS FOOTBALL

Allison Vitkus •THE SHAKERITE

# Our school spirit needs redirection

Everyone has heard it. At an assembly, at a football game or at a school dance, students proudly chant the two numbers representing their class. But too often, class pride outshines school pride. Simply supporting one's own class falls short of two of our school's guiding principles: respect for others and appreciation for what they bring to our community.

At the opening all-school assembly, Principal Michael Griffith announced that he and student council had identified unity as a theme for the school year. For this reason they eliminated "color war" spirit days, which divided the school, and instead held weekly school spirit days. In another effort, Griffith and student council established a student section at home football games. We commend their efforts and we urge them to actively pursue this theme throughout the year.

However, school spirit needs to be associated with more than just sports. Spirit days could be extended to every Friday for the rest of the school year, not just during football or basketball seasons. And to balance "jersey days," there could be "club days" when students are encouraged to wear their club shirts.

Student response to these efforts so far has not been as enthusiastic as we hope it will become. Few students have participated in the spirit days, and most of those who did were upperclassmen. Sadly, the newly formed student section at the St. Ignatius football game — the biggest sporting event thus far — was half-filled, composed mainly of juniors and seniors, and empty during the fourth quarter.

Students should begin to see themselves not just as part of a class but as part of an evolving student community, one they will belong to long after they graduate. The character of our community rests on our ability to reconcile differences and build healthy relationships across class lines. Students can help realize that goal by not letting the difference of a few years prevent the development of a closer-knit student body.

## Sobriety prevails

Kudos to the sober students who attended the Sept. 20 Back to School dance.

For the most part, students were either sober or at least not visibly drunk. The student body would do well to maintain similar behavior at future dances.

## 'Rite the Idea

Spirit days could be extended to every Friday for the rest of the school year, not just during football or basketball seasons. And to balance "jersey days," there could be "club days" when students are encouraged to wear their club shirts.

## Like taking candy from a baby

Why does candy cost 60 cents all of a sudden? Look at the economics - the profit won't increase that much. Bring it back down to 55 cents, because the extra five cents is emptying our wallets faster than we can say 'extortion!' And while you're at it, where are my Milky Way Midnights?

Deborah Beim

## Parking violation

The police shouldn't give out parking tickets during the school day. Instead of parking illegally where our mirrors are five inches in front of the no-parking sign, the police want us to park on the other side of South Woodland, and then have us be late to class. Priorities?

Abby Hexter

## Weekend warriors

Doesn't weekend homework bother you? 'Cause I know it bothers me. We shouldn't have weekend homework because we have enough during the week. You're obligated to do the homework instead of enjoying yourself over the weekend. Look at it from our point of view and have some compassion.

Sidi Gueye

## Top Ten REASONS TO RUN FOR CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

10 Cheap publicity
9 Get a Fox reality TV show
8 Terminate the Terminator
7 Easy senior government hours
6 Debate sumo wrestlers and strippers
5 Get secret service agents
4 Hundreds of other candidates can't be wrong
3 Guaranteed to get more votes than Gray Davis
2 Get a free "I ran for California Governor" bumper sticker
1 Legalize ferrets as domestic pets

# VISUAL CONTROVERSY

## DRAWING THE LINE BETWEEN ART AND DESTRUCTION

GRAFFITI SAMPLES TAKEN from various sites around downtown Cleveland. These sites include The Funwall on West 25th Street and the buildings surrounding the Crew Boathouse on Carter Road.

Harry Hawthorne/THE SHAKERITE

By Marguerite Moore
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

Another story graces the news: a teenager has been arrested for self-expression. His materials: spray paint and a wall.

According to the Plain Dealer, 20-year-old Daniel Dwyer was recently arrested in Rocky River for felony vandalism. He was initially sentenced to 10 days in jail.

The art of graffiti traces back to ancient Rome. Though the law currently deems it vandalism, graffiti is finding more and more acceptance as an art form and underground culture.

"You see it everywhere," senior Kaitlin Wolfberg said. "The best is in the inner city, where it is so intricate and beautiful."

Junior Toby Griffiths started painting graffiti years ago after being inspired by the other works.

"I could always draw," Griffiths said. "I saw it in the streets and wanted to do it." He is still practicing in spots scattered throughout the greater Cleveland area. Though graffiti is technically vandalism, more and more people and companies are beginning to sponsor the artwork and legalize areas for the artists to work.

"It's gotten to the point where culture has accepted it as art," said junior graffiti artist James Quarles. Art teacher Keaf Holliday also believes that graffiti is a positive art form that should be encouraged.

"Graffiti is great as long as it's not vandalism. That's when a good thing goes bad," he said. "Vandalism is when people go onto property that has not been designated as public domain. But there are actually buildings where people can go and do graffiti without there being an issue," he said.

One such legal site was found at City Xpressionz, an international Aerosol Art Festival that took place in Ohio City over Labor Day weekend. During the event, artists came from across the U.S. and Canada to design walls legally. The event, sponsored by Cleveland Public Art, intended to educate the general public about the culture and credibility of graffiti. Additionally, Neighborhood Connections, a program introduced by The Cleveland Foundation, recently gave City Xpressionz $5000 in order to help the program continue the festival.

> "THE CANVAS IS THE BRICK WALL AND THE NOZZLE IS THE PAINT BRUSH"
> -James Quarles, Junior

Popular graffiti is not inexpensive. Graffiti artist junior Ric Teamor spends about $15 "to paint something nice." Supplies include bucket paint, spray paint and caps that go on the cans to direct paint. While some artists draw intricate painting and designs, Teamor's inspiration is somewhat simpler.

"I come up with ideas from the basic alphabet. All the stuff they teach you in art, like serifs, that's basically graffiti," he said. A serif is a typographical term for the thin ends of letters.

However, despite legal painting sites and festivals, in the broad sense, graffiti is still illegal.

Griffiths believes that graffiti can be art or vandalism.

"When I first started, it was something I struggled over: 'Should graffiti be legalized in all areas?' But the more I did it, I realized that it is art but it is vandalism," Griffiths said. "You can't really take the vandal part out of it ... if it's not illegal, then it's not really graffiti."

Despite the negativity expressed by the police, Quarles still believes that graffiti can easily be compared to a painting.

"It's like painting through a different medium. The canvas is like the brick wall, your oil paint is like the paint in the can, and the nozzle is your paintbrush. It's a very intricate process. Most people can't do it," Quarles said.

Though people see graffiti every day, stereotypes are commonly associated with the artwork.

"The most common stereotype is that graffiti writers are all gang members," Quarles said. "They think that street gangs are putting it up. But in actuality ... it's just normal kids going out and having fun," he said.

Quarles would like to see more legal walls in Cleveland. "It would be nice if there were more locations for people to do their thing," he said. "The more they repress it, the more it will keep popping up."

# From walls to stalls: High school artists upset staff

By Aviva Abiel
FOCUS EDITOR

Some of the most widely read student writing can't be found in The Shakerite.

Instead, it's just above the toilet paper.

From unrepeatable obscenities to love advice and even free verse poems, graffiti adorns bathroom stalls, classroom desks, posters for extracurricular activities and other school property. These unauthorized forums for student expression have become visible additions to the otherwise institutional school décor.

Junior Jenny Goldman is unhappy about the amount of graffiti she sees in the girls' bathrooms. "[The graffiti writers] do it to make a statement and to show that they exist," said Goldman, who opposes vandalism, but doesn't think it's too pressing an issue. "It is public property, and they shouldn't be writing on things that everyone uses."

Goldman admitted to once writing that she hated her teacher, but erased her comment before it was seen. "If you wrote on one of her desks, she'd come to your class and find out who wrote it. You would have to stay after school and clean it," Goldman said.

So far this year, writing on desks has not been an issue for physical science teacher Karen Brown. "If they write just something dumb," Brown said, "like flowers or something, they need to clean it off." In the past, Brown's students have cooperated about erasing their writing in class.

The consequences, however, depend on the writing. "If it is a threat, it brings in a whole different situation," said Brown, who had a threat written on a desk in her classroom before. "Pictures will need to be taken of the desk and the assistant principal is brought in."

Carlos Sanchez has spent six and a half years as a janitor at the high school cleaning graffiti every day. "We clean it off as [students] put it on," said Sanchez, who has not seen graffiti this year. "It makes the school ugly." He also feels that certain students need to show more respect for school property.

Sanchez notes the science wing, main hallway doors, entry doors, Egress doors and boys' bathrooms as problem areas for vandalism throughout the school. Many written symbols or words are left on school property, but certain markings attract immediate attention. "Gang signs have to be cleaned right away," Sanchez said.

Consequences can be harsher than just cleaning desks. Offenders can be charged for anything from property damage to felonies, depending on the content of the art. The penalties also vary, from a $1000 fine and full restitution to more than one year in jail.

"We don't accept it," Shaker Heights Police Chief Walter Ugrinic said of graffiti. "We try to apprehend anyone who does it and get full restitution." Although graffiti is more common in downtown Cleveland, Ugrinic says he has seen graffiti in Shaker.

"Sometimes you're lucky and sometimes you're not," he said of catching graffiti offenders. "We don't have a statistic and we hope not to have one, because if there's a statistic, that means there's a problem." Surveillance cameras have been installed in certain places in Shaker, most commonly around bridges, in part to deter graffiti artists.

"We hope that the taxpayers' money won't have to be used to clean up someone else's crime," Ugrinic said. However, despite the consequences, artists still take the risk.

Damaged property is also an issue in other local schools. A student who used blue marker to write on lockers and walls in 2002 vandalized Cleveland Heights High School. According to the school newspaper's website, the school is now spending $1.5 million for restoration projects that include repainting the vandalized property.

James Plaute/THE SHAKERITE

THIS SIGN ON the intersection of South Woodland Rd. and Attleboro Rd. is one example of the vandalism which occurs in Shaker Heights.

In Shaker, many teachers have policies regarding graffiti on classroom furniture. Kate LeFloria's teacher, Sally Hagstrand, has consequences for writing on desks. "She will pull out the cleaner and make you clean [the desk]," the senior said of her American Experience and psychology teacher.

LeFloria also recognizes the competition between grades on bathroom walls. "'05 will be scratched out by '04, and it continues on like that," said LeFloria, who thinks that girls do not believe the rumors written about boys on bathroom walls.

According to LeFloria, writing on any school property is vandalism that should be punished. "They want attention or something to write on," she said. "It is bad. They're destroying ours and the school's property."

# Artistic Outlets Around Cleveland

### THE TEMPLE OF LOST LOVE

Hidden under the Eagle Street Bridge, this is Cleveland's prime graffiti spot. Legend has it that the Temple began when someone painted skeletons there. Only a few of these skeletons remain, but their legacy lives on in the pictures, signatures and slogans painted around them. Even though the bridge has been a hot spot for artists for many years, don't expect to see a decade's worth of art there. On Sept. 14, 2002, police (known as "art nazis" to artists) painted over the bridge in an attempt to curb vandalism, acting days after the artists held a tribute to the victims of Sept. 11.

### THE CREW BOATHOUSE

Next to the Western Reserve Rowing Foundation boathouse, the facility used by local crew teams, the Carter Road Bridge houses this site for showing school pride. Each school that utilizes the crew facilities expressed their school spirit with a painting on the cement wall beneath the metal grid bridge. Besides a large Shaker, one can find a blue and gold "I" from St. Ignatius, a silhouette of a man holding an oar from John Carroll University and a rising sun with "Belmont" printed on it.

### THE FUNWALL

Tucked away off of West 25th Sreet in Cleveland this site is an artist's dream- spacious, accessible and completely legal. According to two anonymous artists, these walls were once part of a factory that has since burned down. The two walls are now entirely covered in vibrant colors and patterns of graffiti. In fact, so many artists visit the site that the art changes entirely after just one week. The original owner still owns the property and has not yet taken any action against the hundreds of visiting artists.

Compiled By: Jason Plaute

# Graffiti 101: The art of reading

•We asked junior graffiti artists James Quarles and Ric Teamor to draw graffiti samples of "Shaker."

Quarles created block lettering with added lines to show depth. He also changed the ends of the letters and used an arrow to cross the "H."

Teamor took the letters spelling "Shaker" and added hooks. He colored the letters red and put on a green outline to add contrast.

### Raccoon, the other (other) white meat

A Shaker Heights Public Works Department employee who brought live, freshly trapped raccoons home for his family's supper was reprimanded by the city, but we're not yet ready to give up on raccoon rations. Science teacher Ken Culek agrees with the mandate but noted that disposing of raccoons was "wasting a resource."

"If we were out in the country, no one would think anything of it," Culek said. Mayor Judy Rawson may not use our recipe, but f the raccoon-lovers out there, here's our favorite raccoon stew for your dining pleasure:

Dispose of raccoon glands and as much fat as possible. Parbo skimming fat from top of pot, then cool. Combine meat, carrots, potatoes, celery and tomatoes in the pot. Add seasonings and sim mer until serving.

www.wisconsinhunter.c

# When's the test? Just ask mom!

By David Morgenstern
UP FRONT EDITOR

When junior Ben Wolpaw needs to quickly find a parking spot after returning from Taco Bell in the final minutes of eighth period lunch, he doesn't have to look very far. Wolpaw is the only student allowed to park in the faculty parking lot; he shares a car with his brother, rookie global studies teacher Jed Wolpaw ('98).

"The first couple times I parked there, the security guards tried to make me move it," Ben said. "But now they know that I am allowed to park there because of my brother, so it's all good."

"It is really convenient to be able to park in the teacher's parking lot," said junior John Gustafson, who frequently goes to lunch with Wolpaw. "It is cool to see the looks on the teacher's faces when we park."

While initially apprehensive about teaching at his brother's school, the elder Wolpaw has found it beneficial.

"It is nice to have an inside track into the mind of a student," he said. "Especially one that has already taken the class. I can run activities by him that I am considering using to get a student opinions about whether or not that would be effective."

Ben Wolpaw

Jed Wolpaw

Suzanne Gyurgyik is another teacher with a close relation at school. Her oldest daughter, Audrey, is enrolled in her AP French V class.

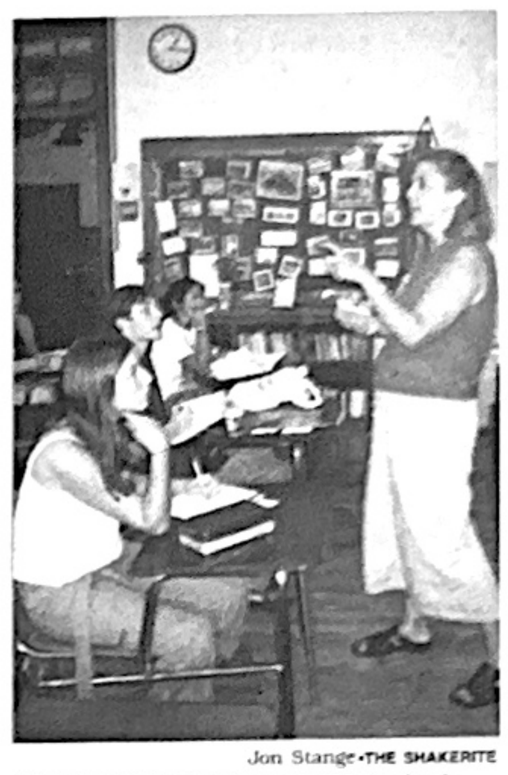
"Being in a class with my daughter has created a special bond with my daughter that I would have never imagined," Gyurgyik said. "I was initially a little scared, but it has been wonderful. She has blended in with the students nicely, and it has created something very special between the two of us.

For Audrey, any awkwardness had more to do with her age then her lineage. "I was more nervous about being the only freshman in a class with all seniors than having my mom as a teacher. But everyone has been really nice, and I thought it was going to be a lot worse than it actually is," Audrey said.

Other students in the class appreciate her presence as well.

"I like the fact that she's there because they both have French backgrounds. Sometimes it's easier to ask her than madame herself. Being one of our peers, she might have answers to our personal questions like what's the cool word for something or slang terms," senior Karelle Hall said.

The younger Wolpaw summed up these benefits. "It has turned out that having my brother as a teacher in the school has been really cool," the younger Wolpaw said. "We are one big, happy family."



Jon Stange •THE SHAKERITE

**SUZANNE GYURGYIK TEACHES her freshman daughter Audrey with the French V AP class during ninth period. They enjoy being in the classroom together.**

## Where to Go

### Thrifty shopping cuts the cost of cool

*Check out our reviews of three area thrift stores!*

**Unique Thrift Store**
**Northfield Road, North Randall**

Unique Thrift is the Wal-Mart of area thrift stores – big, huge, cheap. Shabby chic clothing, toys, furniture and half-price Mondays. Customer service is lacking (the clerk looked like she would rather kill me than help me) but the store makes up for it with very affordable prices, including a good selection of T-shirts for less than $1. A snazzy T-shirt and jeans ensemble can easily be had for $10.

**Salvation Army**
**Northfield Road, North Randall**

Salvation Army is a more costly thrift store (T-shirts run more than a buck) and doesn't offer much besides clothes. Points for selection, though, including a special women's vintage rack. The store is organized and spotless, and the staff creates a friendly atmosphere. Beware: the Salvation Army is a conservative, faith-based charity, so you'll have to endure 95.5 The Fish while shopping. For a snazzy ensemble here, better allot $15.

**Thriftique Larchmere Boulevard, Cleveland**

Located in the Larchmere district. Think garage sale, not clothing boutique. Clothing selection is limited, but the eclectic trinkets are enticing (a pig statue now graces our office). Convenient location and friendly staff make shopping pleasant, but buyer beware: limited hours make it seem like it's never open.

-Will Werner

# EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!

## • Students and teachers debate the ups and downs of extra credit policies

By Anna Hutt
COPY EDITOR

There's one thing that an overachiever, a slacker and a motivated but struggling student have in common: an affinity for extra credit.

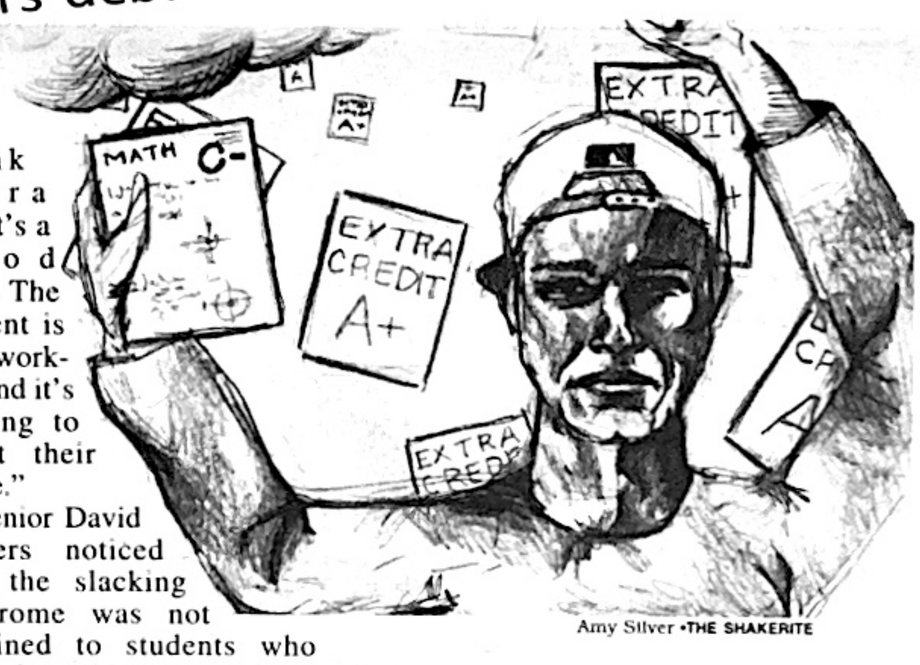
Students from all ends of the academic spectrum enjoy extra credit policies in some classes. Yet the question arises: does extra credit have a positive effect on achievement, or does it merely allow students to get by with less effort?

According to English teacher and SHHS achievement committee member Ellen Kelly, problems occur when teachers give students so many opportunities for extra assignments that they don't have to do the regular ones.

"I want to keep kids focused on the work they're supposed to accomplish," Kelly said. "I don't want to give rewards for not doing work by giving a new assignment."

Junior Tiffany Powell confirmed that classmates "slacked off" in various courses if they knew they had extra credit opportunities in the future. However, she emphasized that extra credit can benefit determined students who want a legitimate way to earn a better grade.

"If we're doing badly, we'd ask teachers for help and they'd try to give us extra stuff," Powell said. "I think extra credit's a good idea. The student is still working and it's helping to boost their grade."




Amy Silver •THE SHAKERITE

Senior David Powers noticed that the slacking syndrome was not confined to students who needed a grade booster. He recalled that several friends ended up with over 100 percent after a semester because of the extra points they accumulated in Latin class.

"Last year on every test we had extra credit problems to do," Powers said. By answering mind-teasers and random trivia questions that did not necessarily include any Latin skills, students could add to their test grades.

Powers said that one of the main sources of bonus points was the National Latin Exam, one of several annual language exams that Shaker students take.

To determine the amount of credit received, students multiplied their score by their course level in Latin. For example, a student in Latin V who earned a 20 on the test would receive 100 extra credit points.

Mary Ashcraft, foreign language department head, said that though there is no school or department policy, many teachers attach extra credit to the national language exams as an additional incentive because of the importance of the tests.

"They know it's going to be a valuable experience for the students to take the test and for us to get the feedback so we keep on track with the national curriculum, so they offer the extra motivation," Ashcraft said.

*Instead of focusing extra credit on one single important exam, Kelly distributes bonus coupons in her CP* **classes continually throughout the semester. Students earn coupons for** merit if, for example, they put extra effort into homework assignments or excel at class work. They turn in their coupons at the end of the grading period and receive points.

"I use it as a system of rewards," Kelly said. "I think it's been successful." Kelly said the encouragement helps her students to boost grades a bit. Though the coupons don't turn failing grades into As, they may push a borderline C-plus up to a B-minus. Her students never receive extra assignments; they can only earn passes for exemplary work they have already completed.

Yet junior Eric Kramer feels that extra assignments are a legitimate form of encouragement. He recalled a past teacher's policy of issuing extra worksheets as compensation when the entire class did badly on a topic.

"On this math test, the average was like a D so she gave us extra credit worksheets," Kramer said.

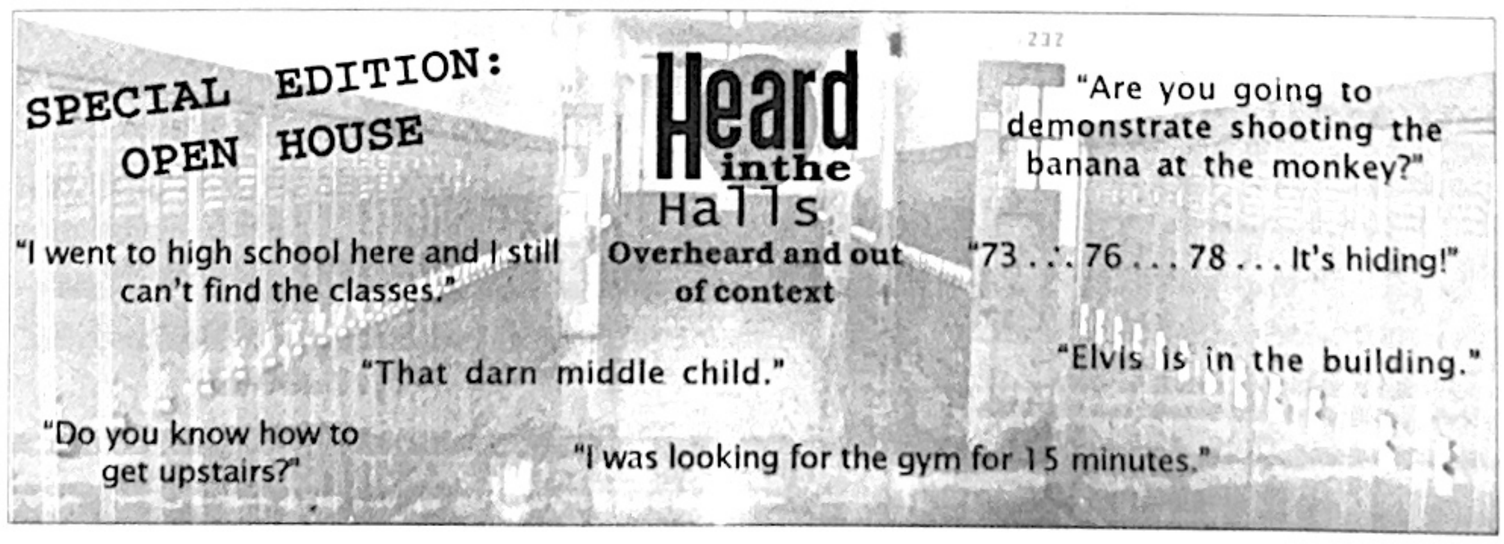
Health teacher Hubert McIntyre offers students opportunities to express themselves in his extra credit assignments.

Every other week he asks a thought-provoking question and allows students to write response essays.

According to McIntyre, who is also a member of the achievement committee, students respond because they feel strongly about a certain issue, not because they need to improve their grades. The credit comes as a bonus.

"If you're willing to put forth the initiative and work for it, you deserve points," McIntyre said. To avoid the slacker phenomenon, he doesn't give extra points to students until all of their required work has at least been turned in.

"Extra credit doesn't take the place of assignments," he said. "If you don't have the time to do the work, how do you have time to do the extra credit?"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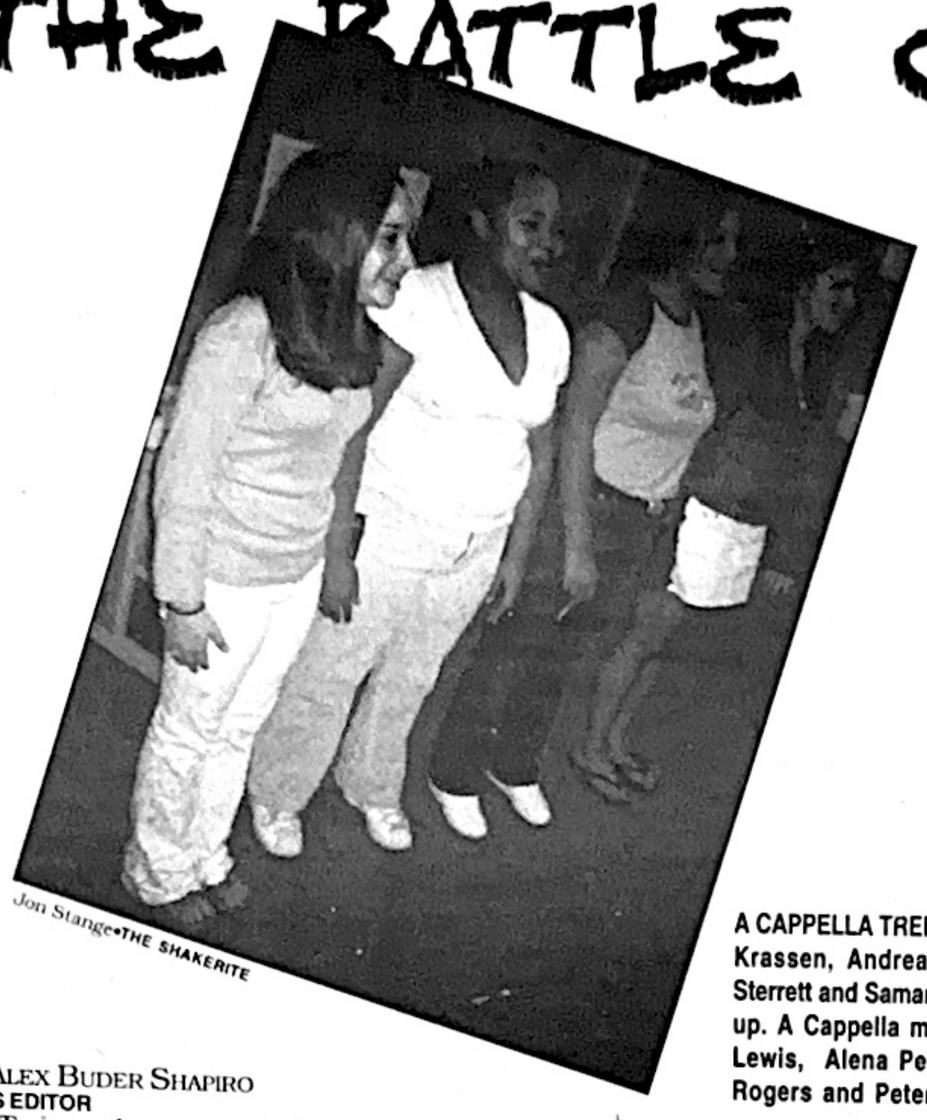
"That darn middle child."
"Do you know how to get upstairs?"
"I was looking for the gym for 15 minutes."
"Are you going to demonstrate shooting the banana at the monkey?"
"73 . . . 76 . . . 78 . . . It's hiding!"
"Elvis is in the building."

## Top five reasons "The Battle of Shaker Heights" could not take place in Shaker Heights

1. The only black person in the movie is the principal.
2. No one here would say, "Wow! I didn't think people went to Yale!"
3. Good luck parking on both sides of the street!
4. Spanish tile roof and no oval? That's not our high school!
5. Only one Tudor house? Where's the other half of Shaker?

Compiled by Becca Bonthius and Emily Ozan

# THE BATTLE OF THE CHOIRS



Jon Stange•THE SHAKERITE

Jon Stange• THE SHAKERITE

**A CAPPELLA TREBLE singers Emily Krassen, Andrea Martin, Janelle Sterrett and Samantha Mikker warm up. A Cappella mixed singers Ian Lewis, Alena Petrenko, Cristyna Rogers and Peter Elliot practice.**

By Alex Buder Shapiro
ARTS EDITOR

Twice a day, junior Andrea Martin lends her voice to both sides of a burgeoning Shaker rivalry.

"We were given a new piece," Martin said of A Cappella Treble Choir, "and they said we were going to sing it with A Cappella [mixed] and everyone was like, 'Oh man, we have to sing with that choir.'"

In the unusual position of singing in both choirs, Martin sings second soprano third period with the women's treble and alto second period with the mixed (male and female) choir.

"I couldn't say which one is better, but a cappella treble thinks it's better than [mixed] choir, and vice versa," Martin said.

Other singers deny their own involvement in the feud, attributing it to members of the other choir.

"To me, it seems like third period thinks they are better, that their songs are better, that they sound better. I think we are pretty equal," said junior Kellie Fritz, who is a member of the mixed choir.

Angelia Martin ('03), a student at Hiram College, was a choir member for all four years of high school. She sang in both ensembles, though not at the same time.

"I don't know where [the rivalry] stemmed from, but I think that part of it was that the women's [treble] choir was a new concept and then it was placed on the same level of prestige as the A Cappella [mixed] choir," Angelia said. Treble choir, directed by Elizabeth Blakeslee-Vokes, became an honors choir in 2001.

Angelia explained that one of the roots of the animosity is that space for rehearsal and on stage is tight when the choirs sing together.

"If there is barely enough room for one choir, what makes them think they can squeeze another one? And that's when you heard, 'We're singing with that choir?' or 'I don't want to sing with them,'" Angelia said.

> "It's like looking at Beethoven and Bach."
>
> Andrea Martin
> Junior

Junior Cristyna Rogers believes that it isn't so much of a rivalry, just a loyalty to one's band.

"Whatever choir you're in, you're going to think that you're the better choir or you sound better," said Rogers, who has sung with both groups.

Dr. Robert Schneider, who instructs the A Cappella mixed choir and is head of the music department, doesn't think too much of the rivalry.

With a knowing chuckle, he explained, "I wouldn't call it a rivalry. I think that any time you have two sections, there is going to be a natural competition between them."

The idea of a rivalry is in the air because the music department may have the two choirs meet during the same period next year. This would give the groups more rehearsal time for more combined songs and free the choir room for a period of band.

"I think there might be problems in the beginning, but we would work it out," Fritz said. "We're all friends."

Several students said the move would make performing together more successful by giving them time to rehearse together.

"Whenever we sang together, we never practiced it. We sort of winged it," Angelia said.

"As far as my opinion goes, when I think of a cappella women's and a cappella mixed, it's like looking at Beethoven and Bach. They are overall drastically different. I couldn't say which one is better," Andrea said.

## five MINUTE critic

### Camp

Starring: Daniel Letterle, Joanna Chilcote, Robin DeJesus
Director: Todd Graff

Fans of musical theater, especially teenagers who devote their lives to it, will enjoy seeing their sub-genre lovingly portrayed, complete with all of its quirks, in this comedy about a musical theater summer camp and its inhabitants. Other viewers, however, may be turned off by the mediocre acting, meager storylines and the melodrama, which gives new meaning to *the word camp.*

★★

*out of four*

Alex Buder Shapiro

### The Battle of Shaker Heights

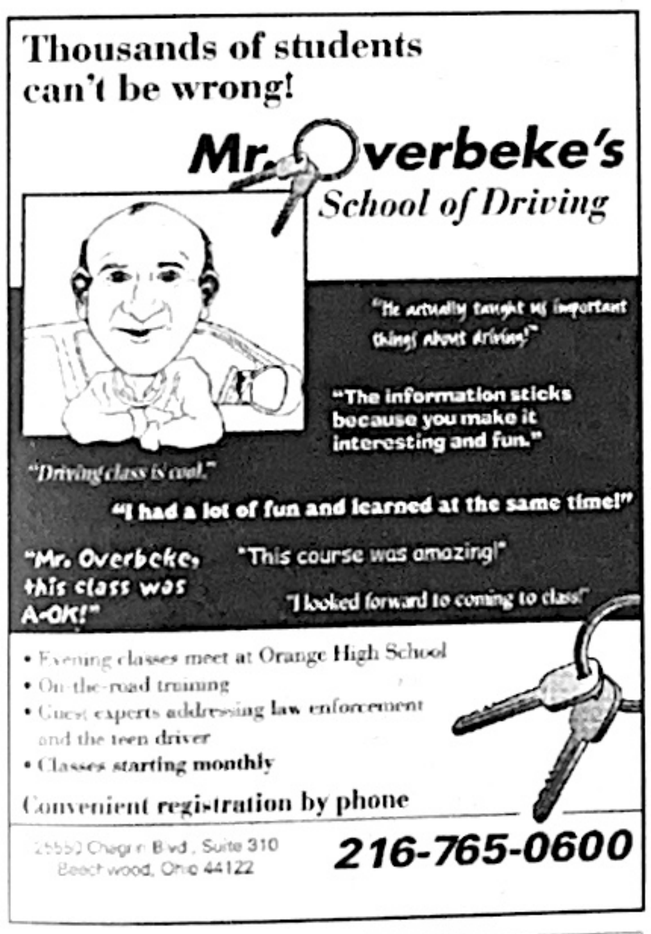
Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Amy Smart
Director: Kyle Rankin, Efram Potelle

Although viewers may be excited to see their city in this movie title, they should not hold out for ecstasy. The real battle is sitting through it. In this film, LaBeouf plays Kelly, a Shaker senior who is captivated by WWII simulations. However, instead of focusing the movie around this element, the plot jumps around, moving from "Saving Private Ryan" to "A Walk to Remember" in 88 minutes.

★

*out of four*

Emily Ozan, Becca Bonthius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# Poetry, hip-hop style

FROM KAMIKAZE PAGE 1

she said. Though she had not written poetry prior to her visit to the Kamikaze Coffee House, she was inspired to do so after attending an open mic session.

"It's so interesting to hear different topics people choose. I realized you could write about anything and not just serious things," she said, adding that she would be glad to go to another session.

Junior Shannon Ashford also attended an open mic session and had a similar experience.

"I liked it a lot. It was different from what I expected because there were all different types of people," she said. Not only was she surprised at the diversity of the audience, but also at the large range of topics that the poets explored.

"I was waiting for it to be like [Black Entertainment Television's] Comic View, but there was a lot of seriousness," she said.

Not only are Shaker students often engaged as audience members, but also as performers.

Senior Eriane Dyson has been reading her poetry since ninth grade at the Kamikaze Coffee House and at other locations such as The Rhythm Room and The Spy Bar. Her feelings about performing have changed as time passed.

"When I first started performing I was real nervous. After that you wanna do it and when you see other people up there you wanna be up there, too," she said. Dyson thinks the audience often provides a positive energy that is encouraging to performers.

"They feed off of your energy and you feed off of theirs," she said.

Located in Warrensville Heights, the Kamikaze Coffee House has existed since 1999, but has hosted open mic sessions since 2000. Chief Rocka Entertainment, founded by Jabaazz Snipes and Q-Nice, was largely responsible for the inception of the open mic sessions.

"The owner was looking to do poetry sessions. We wanted to keep the tradition strong because the open mic session was strong at The Humodor," Snipes said. The Humodor, once a bar and lounge, hosted some of the first open mic sessions in Cleveland.

Ever since, Snipes and Q-Nice, along with the eight other members of Chief Rocka Entertainment, have been involved with hosting and promoting the spoken word gatherings.

Attendance at the sessions varies depending on the season - more people generally come during the summer - but between 60 and 100 people usually attend.

The Kamikaze Coffee House will host a tri-city poetry slam Oct. 12 at 9:15 p.m. featuring poets from Cleveland, Buffalo and Toronto. In the long term, Chief Rocka Entertainment hopes to continue to expand the open mic sessions.

"We'll start doing bigger venues. We'll bring in people from out of town. We're also looking at moving the location," Snipes said.

Despite any future changes, DJ and head of promotions Sanches "Nefyoo" Lewis believes that the Kamikaze Coffee House's open mic sessions will continue to operate under the same goal of teaching people about hip-hop culture.

"We'll keep on educating, keep on bringing in poets," he said.

# Clarett must remember it's all about football

With two promising years of college football ahead of him, Ohio State University running back Maurice Clarett fouled his future career with one dishonest decision.

The sophomore filed an exaggerated police report stating that $10,000 worth of equipment was stolen out of a 2001 Monte Carlo that he was supposedly borrowing for a test drive. This led to further investigations by the NCAA, which revealed that Clarett received benefits worth thousands of dollars. This, as well as misleading NCAA officials, violated two parts of the NCAA amateur code and 14 violations of its ethical code.

DAVID O'CONNELL
SPORTS EDITOR

For these violations, Clarett's suspension is definite for the 2003-2004 college football season. Clarett still has his scholarship and the school may reinstate his amateur status for the 2004-2005 season.

Clarett, however, hopes to play in the NFL instead and has hired an attorney to challenge the league rule stating that athletes must be three years out of high school to enter the draft.

It's in Clarett's best interest not to leave Ohio State. As of now he retains his scholarship and can watch his teammates from the sideline. Chances are that the school will reinstate him to the team next season because he is a major asset to the Buckeyes' offense.

Running to the NFL only two years out of high school may not be the best option for Clarett. Right now he expects to go early in the NFL draft, to receive a long-term contract and a favorable salary. Yet if the league allows him to play, he might not be drafted any higher than the second round due to his inexperience and an elbow injury that he suffered during his freshman year at OSU. Up against veterans, his chances at dominating in the game are unclear if he enters the NFL in its next draft.

In terms of athletic status, it comes down to a player's rights and responsibilities. Clarett traded his sophomore season with the defending championship team by violating NCAA rules.

This media spectacle should help him realize that, right now, it's about playing football, not about getting away with breaking rules. He has risked his own career, whether he chooses to fight his way into the NFL or support his college team from the sidelines.

# Looking past THE NUMBERS

## •Last-second losses don't shake Raiders' confidence

By Renee Frantz
FOCUS EDITOR

There are □□□ records, and then there are □□□ records.

Thirty seconds and six points are all that separate the football team from a □□□ mark. Although stomped by St. Ignatius □□□□□, the Raiders are a much stronger team than their record indicates.

After opening the season by pounding Houston's Gulf Sores Academy □□□□, the Raiders could not hold on to their leads against Brunswick or St. Ed's. Shaker boarded the bus with losses of □□□□□ and □□□□□, respectively. Both oppos□ing teams came from behind in the final seconds. The Raiders, ranked □□nd by the OHSAA computer rankings also experienced a rough defeat by No. □ St. Ignatius.

After the St. Ed's game, The Plain Dealer listed the Raiders as the best team in the region with a □□□ record. The Raiders are determined to live up to expectations and continue to play hard against the tough oppo□nents that they have yet to face.

Head Coach David Sedmak, though disappointed in the recent losses, has confidence in the team.

"The group that we have this year is so unified, so supportive of each other, and both physically and men□tally tough," Sedmak said.

Senior captain and quarterback Arden McWilliams believes the players' ability to move beyond losses distinguishes this season from previous ones.

"This year we believe that we can do it, and we fight regardless of the losses," McWilliams said.

The setbacks have only made them stronger.

"When you give it your all, no matter how bad you're losing, there's always hope for the future," McWilliams said. "We have worked too hard to just give up after a couple of losses."

Sedmak said, "We're kind of the team that never dies. We just keep fighting 'til the end."

Brian Gamm •THE SHAKERITE

RAIDER RUNNING BACK Craig Johnson sheds two St. Ignatius tackles for a major gain. Shaker lost the game, 56-29, and dropped to 1-3. Despite the lopsided defeat and two last-second losses to St. Edward's and Brunswick, the Raiders remain optimistic about this season.

> "This year we believe that we can do it, and we fight regardless of the losses."
>
> Arden McWilliams
> senior quarterback

### HONORING AN INJURED FOE

Fans and players observed a moment of silence for Saint Ignatius DB Mark Tupa at the Sept. 13 varsity game. Tupa was injured Sept. 11 in a collision with Shaker LB David Garrett, who suffered a concussion, was treated and released. Tupa underwent surgery for a severe neck injury and remains hospitalized.

Lauren Weiss

# Seeking a pledge to stay out of the huddle

## •ADs' letter asks parents to let coaches do their jobs

FROM LETTER, PAGE 1

Information to expect from coaches, such as coaching philoso□phies and team requirements, was also summarized as a reminder of coaches' responsibilities to maintain respectful relationships with parents.

Though Brown said she has re□ceived negative comments on some guidelines, she has also gotten posi□tive reactions to the letter.

Brown said the letter was not re□lated to the incident last year with women's soccer, in which players' complaints about playing time evolved into parent confrontations with the coach.

The letter also invited parents to an assembly August □□ to discuss the athletic department's philosophy and expectations, eligibility, sports□manship, the ath□letic code and par□ent□coach commu□nication. Though the assembly was cancelled due to the blackout, as□semblies will be held and letters sent before the winter and spring seasons.

Brown

"I think it's kinda funny that they wrote a letter to parents, but some of them might need it," said junior field hockey player Clare Malone. "My parents are really involved in sports though□and they're not those people who're screaming from the sidelines."

Annie Hubbard, mother of jun□ior soccer player Tina Hubbard, has witnessed such behavior.

"These □discouraged□ behaviors occur at sporting events, and not just at high school, youth sports through professional sports," Hubbard said. "Unfortunately, I've seen the behav□ior quite a bit, so it definitely was necessary to have our community re□mind us and help us use appropriate behavior."

JUNIOR SHAFEQAH Abdullah clears a hurdle in a track meet against Euclid last May.

Brian Gamm •THE SHAKERITE

# Women's 4x400 places fifth in national championships

Even though they expected to win, the women's 4x400 relay team couldn't contain their happiness after placing fifth in the Adidas Outdoor Championships in Raleigh, N. C. June 12-13.

"They were relieved, excited; you couldn't put it into words . . . they were excited to tears," said women's track coach Henry Woodard.

• Ashliegh Blandon ('03), sophomore Brittany Mosely, and seniors Kenelle Hughley and Amani Floyd ran in that order against the second-fastest group of eight teams from across the nation in their 4x400 heat.

"We worked really hard all season and everybody did their best to win," Hughley said. "We look forward to doing it again this year.

• They finished the 4x400 in 3.56.9 seconds, winning their heat, beating three teams from the fastest heat, and placing fifth overall.

• The same team won the state championships in Dayton in 3:50.6, just under the AOC qualifying time of 3:57.

"The girls were under a lot of pressure in Dayton because a lot of people expected them to win . . . you just have to run the race because anything can happen," Woodard said.

Meagan Steiner